

## NPS Proposes Conceptual Alternatives

### Progress Report

The National Park Service has continued to study the eligibility and feasibility of creating a new national historic trail to commemorate the events of the 1814 Chesapeake Campaign during the War of 1812. The study team has spent the past year researching the historic routes of: the British invasion of Maryland and Washington DC; the President and First Lady in Virginia; and the American defense routes through Maryland in 1814.

As part of the trail study process, the team has prepared recommendations to the National Park Service regarding the eligibility of various trail segments; has drafted conceptual management alternatives for the proposed trail; and has prepared National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance documentation to assess the potential impacts of the proposed actions.

Under the requirements of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and Public Law 106-135, the National Landmarks Committee reviewed the team's Significance Determination and agreed with the recommendations. The National Park Service Advisory Board will review the study and the Committee's recommendations in late October 2002. The proposed Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail study will move forward with the draft feasibility study, management alternatives and Environmental Impact Statement.

The study team has compiled information from the public and from agency and stakeholder consultations to explore a range of management options. These alternatives have been considered so that the opportunities, benefits, issues, impacts, and costs of various actions can be compared and understood.

The five conceptual alternatives, explained in this newsletter, are:

- ❖ Alternative A: No Action
- ❖ Alternative B: National Historic Trail with Joint Management
- ❖ Alternative C: National Historic Trail with Federal Management
- ❖ Alternative D: State Designation and Management
- ❖ Alternative E: National Heritage Area Designation

Over the next two months, we would like to hear from you about these conceptual alternatives. To facilitate this discussion with the public, the study team will be hosting three public meetings throughout the study area in November. The team also welcomes feedback from the public through the study website and through the mail.

### The Study Process

1. **Establish goals and evaluate data**
  - ♦ Reaffirm enabling legislation and study goals
  - ♦ Conduct public scoping to solicit issues and ideas from interested parties
  - ♦ Evaluate resources, historic routes, documents, facilities, organizational capacities
2. **Analyze national significance & feasibility of trail designation**
  - ♦ Apply National Historic Trail Criteria to each historic trail segment
  - ♦ Conduct stakeholder consultations
  - ♦ Formulate Statement of National Significance
  - ♦ Craft recommendations regarding feasibility, suitability, and significance of the proposed trail
3. **Draft Study Report with EIS**
  - ♦ Revise Statement of National Significance
  - ♦ Develop a range of management alternatives
  - ♦ Select NPS preferred alternative
  - ♦ Evaluate impacts of alternative concepts
  - ♦ Conduct public workshops
  - ♦ Publish draft report for 60-day public review and comment
4. **Publish Final Report/EIS**
  - ♦ Evaluate public and agency comment and make changes as necessary
  - ♦ Publish final report
  - ♦ Publish the Record of Decision
5. **Congressional action**
  - ♦ National Historic Trail Designation
  - ♦ Other action

WE  
ARE  
HERE

# What is the proposed Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail?

A national historic trail is an extended trail that follows routes of travel that are historically and nationally significant. The trail must be significant with respect to any of several broad facets of American History, such as trade and commerce, exploration, migration and settlement, or military campaigns, and must have significant potential for public recreational use or historical interest based on historical interpretation and appreciation. The trail need not be continuous and might include land and water segments, marked highways paralleling the route, and sites that together form a chain or network along the route.

The purpose and significance of each trail is determined to examine the unique characteristics of the trail and to ensure that management, resource protection, visitor use, and trail development is in accordance with the NPS mandates: to protect and preserve resources and to provide for the enjoyment of those resources by people.

Other National Historic Trails (NHTs) designated across the United States include the Oregon Trail NHT, Lewis and Clark NHT, and Pony Express NHT.

## What is the proposed Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail?

The proposed Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail would follow the strategic route of the British invasion and the American defense during the 1814 Chesapeake Campaign of the War of 1812, the first time in the history of the United States that the capital was invaded by a foreign power. The trail would include the water and land components that were chosen by the British military as strategic means of reaching both the nation's capital and the city of Baltimore — the commercial center of the Chesapeake region — and other related routes. During public meetings in January 2001, the public acknowledged two other related trail segments that merited study: the Flight of President Madison and the First Lady and the Rescue of the National Documents from Washington.

## How will the proposed trail be evaluated?

National Historic Trails must meet predetermined criteria in order to be designated. The three criteria are that the trail must: have a historic use and be able to be used today; exhibit national significance; and have opportunity for public recreation and historic interpretation. The team applied these three criteria to the proposed Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. At two public seminars, the NPS study team and a group of independent scholars debated and documented the themes and national significance of the historic routes and events of 1814. A draft statement of significance was developed and provided to the historians for review. Significant statements describe the importance of a trail to U.S. heritage. They describe why the trail and its resources are unique within a broader regional, national, and international context.

## What are the study's findings?

The group concluded that the proposed Star-Spangled Banner NHT is nationally significant with respect to many broad aspects of American history, including the military, social, economic, and political history of the United States.

The historic events surrounding this campaign affected many aspects of American life from the latter part of the War of 1812 to the present day. Although the route is directly related to historic military events, the national significance of the proposed trail is further derived from the far-reaching effects of the campaign on the development of the United States. The American victory that ended the campaign contributed to the development of an American identity and inspired a surging spirit of nationalism that had not previously existed. This spirit included the recognition of the importance of the national flag and the writing of the poem that would later become the National Anthem.

Related to the other two criteria, the proposed NHT has significant potential for public recreational use and historical interpretation,

as well as aesthetic appeal and patriotic appreciation. It passes numerous historic structures and cultural sites, including the White House, the U.S. Capitol, and Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine.

The setting of the proposed trail also enhances its appeal. Much of the proposed trail crosses cultural and natural landscapes that have a great deal of integrity, including the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers and their shorelines. Because much of the campaign was water-based, there is an opportunity for interpretation both from the water and from the scenic, and substantially protected, shorelines. A number of museums, parks, and historic sites protect resources and provide public access and interpretation of the War of 1812 and related historic themes.

The team found that five of the eight route segments have retained integrity and have high potential for public use and enjoyment. All of the proposed trail segments, individually and collectively, are found to be nationally significant. The team recommends five segments be designated as a national historic trail.

## Significant Themes

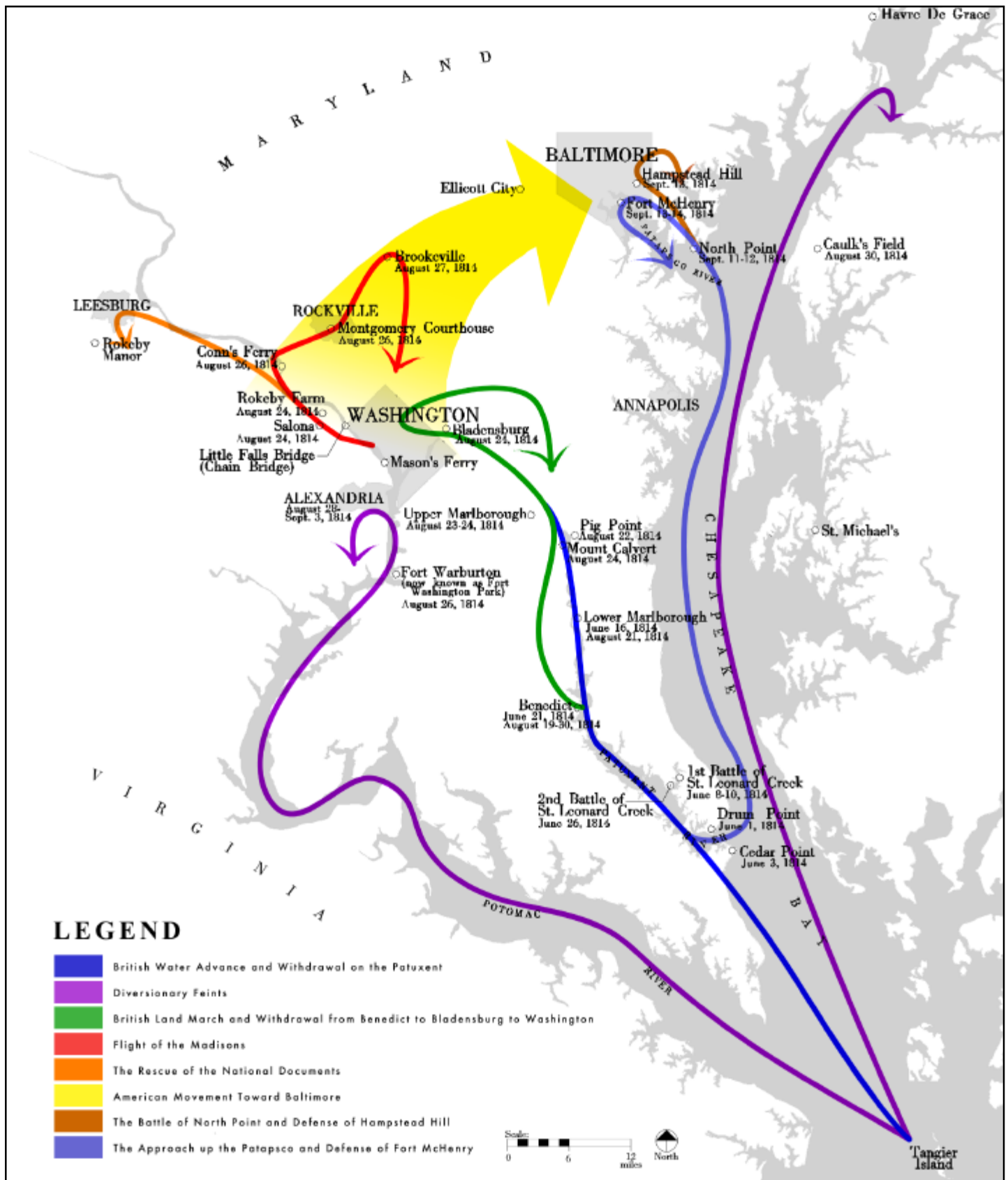
### The Broader Context: War of 1812

- ❖ International Political Framework
- ❖ A Test of Democracy
- ❖ Myths, Stories, and Legends

### The 1814 Chesapeake Campaign

- ❖ Nationalism and Patriotism
- ❖ The National Capital
- ❖ The National Flag
- ❖ Slavery
- ❖ American Defense Policy
- ❖ Trade and Commerce
- ❖ The Role of Civilians and Free Blacks
- ❖ The Role of the First Lady

# The Study Area and Historic Trail Routes



# Summary of Conceptual Management Alternatives

From November 2000 through May 2002, the National Park Service conducted a number of interviews, workshops, public meetings, and team meetings to develop a reasonable range of alternatives for the creation, interpretation, management, and administration of the proposed Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. During these consultations and team meetings, the stakeholders discussed the opportunities and constraints associated with trail designation and development, leading up to a reasonable range of management alternatives that would meet the vision for the trail.

The proposed management alternatives, summarized here and compared in the center of this newsletter, outline several approaches for the management and interpretation of the proposed trail. These concepts are the result of the team's consideration of the trail vision, current resource conditions, and ideas and concerns from the public. A range of alternatives has been considered so that the opportunities, benefits, issues, impacts, and costs can be compared and understood.

**These concepts are meant to spark discussion; they are not plans and do not represent any final decisions.**

Throughout the scoping process, participants were asked to describe their vision for the trail, with respect to its significance, integrity, and purpose. Desired conditions related to the overall trail concept, resource protection, visitor experience, and trail management were discussed. These items were considered when crafting these conceptual alternatives.

## Achieving the Vision

To achieve the vision, the following management responsibilities would have to be assigned:

- ❖ Interpretation of resources
- ❖ Development of facilities (physical improvements along the trail, parking, waysides, pull-offs, utilities, etc)
- ❖ Trail marking and signage
- ❖ Production of a trail map, site bulletin, and trail management plan
- ❖ Maintenance and enforcement
- ❖ Liability and indemnification of landowners

## Actions Common to All Alternatives

All of the alternatives strive for the recognition and commemoration of the Chesapeake Campaign of 1814 and associated events leading up to the writing of the poem that inspired the National Anthem. The different alternatives focus on varying degrees of federal involvement and a variety of methods for the protection, interpretation, and management of the proposed national historic trail and its associated resources. The alternatives provide for the following actions:

- ❖ Protect and interpret the historic routes and cultural resources associated with the historic routes, the American flag, and the National Anthem
- ❖ Commemorate significant military, social, and political events
- ❖ Recognize, interpret, and protect battlefields and other sites associated with the routes
- ❖ Allow visitors to envision and experience the heritage and struggles that ensued during the Chesapeake Campaign of 1814
- ❖ Recognize the patriots who fought against enemy invasion and bombardment to preserve the country's freedom and serve as a reminder of the importance of liberty
- ❖ Protect private property rights
- ❖ Provide interpretive and recreational opportunities for visitors to learn about the stories of the Chesapeake Campaign and the events leading up to the writing of the National Anthem
- ❖ Provide a unique visitor experience through a commemorative driving route and recreational water route that explore many themes
- ❖ Provide resource protection and interpretation with minimal construction or site disturbance
- ❖ Encourage preservation of both private and public resources related to the history of the trail

## No Action Alternative

Alternative A, the no action alternative, continues the existing management policies and authorities. There would continue to be piecemeal interpretation of the events of 1814 and no single organization or entity would be designated to oversee interpretation or development of a trail. This alternative will not result in any greater education or interpretation. Cultural and natural resources would not be protected or interpreted beyond the mechanisms currently in place.

## Action Alternatives

Alternative B takes advantage of the regional nature of the trail and the many organization interested in and associated with the history of the Chesapeake Campaign. This alternative calls for a joint partnership between federal, state, and local governments, a dedicated trail organization, and site managers to administer and maintain a federally-designated commemorative driving and boating trail along the historic routes of the Chesapeake Campaign. This alternative provides flexibility for resource protection while creating a framework for interpretation and visitor experience.

Alternative C, is similar to Alternative B but calls for federal management of all aspects of the trail with active federal acquisition of properties. This alternative has similar advantages to Alternative B but would require more funding and staff for the management of the trail. Alternative D, relies solely on the state governments for designation and management with only limited coordination through the federal government when federal property is involved. Alternative E uses a National Heritage Area designation as the mechanism for recognition, interpretation, and resource protection. Similar to Alternative B, this alternative would rely on partnerships and considerable local support.



# We Want Your Input: Attend a Workshop

## November 12, 2002 - 6:30-8:30pm

**Baltimore, Maryland**

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine

Visitor Center

End of East Fort Avenue

410-962-4290

[www.nps.gov/fomc](http://www.nps.gov/fomc)

The park is three miles southeast of the Baltimore Inner Harbor and just off I-95. Follow blue/green Fort McHenry directional signs along all major routes to the park. From I-95 northbound or southbound, take Exit 55 Key Highway and follow Fort McHenry signs on Key Highway to Lawrence Street. Turn left on Lawrence Street and then left on Fort Avenue. Proceed one mile to the park. Ample parking is available.

## November 13, 2002 - 6:30-8:30pm

**Solomons, Maryland**

Calvert Marine Museum

14200 Solomons Island Road

410-326-2042

[www.calvertmarinemuseum.com](http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com)

Calvert Marine Museum is located on State Route 2 in Solomons, Calvert County, Southern Maryland, twenty miles south of Prince Frederick. *From Washington, D.C.* — Take State Route 4 east from the Washington Beltway to State Route 2/4 to Solomons. *From Baltimore* — Take Interstate 97 south from the Baltimore Beltway, to State Route 3 and U.S. Route 301 south to State Route 4. Continue south/east to State Route 2/4 to Solomons. You can also take I-97 south to the Aris T. Allen Boulevard exit (Route 665), then follow signs for Solomons Island, Route 2 South. Go south on Route 2, following signs for Prince Frederick. Route 2 will join with Route 4 - make a left from Route 2 onto Route 2/4 south. Follow Route 2/4 south/east to Solomons.

Once in Solomons, stay in the right lane of Route 2/4. It will exit to Route 2, passing under the Thomas Johnson Bridge. Make a left, drive approximately 200 yards, and the museum will be right in front of you. *From Richmond* — Take U.S. route 301 north into Maryland, then State Route 234 east to State Route 5, south on State Route 5 passing Leonardtown, left on State Route 4 across the Thomas Johnson Bridge (lower Patuxent River Bridge) to State Route 2 at east end of the bridge, then right approximately 500 feet to the museum. Ample parking is available at the museum.



## November 14, 2002 - 2:00-4:00pm

**Washington DC**

Sewall-Belmont House

144 Constitution Avenue, NE

202-546-1210

[www.natwomanparty.org](http://www.natwomanparty.org)

The Sewall-Belmont House is located at the intersection of Constitution Avenue and 2nd Street NE near Maryland Avenue NE. It is metro-accessible: Union Station (red line): At the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue, NE and Second Street, walk up Second Street (to the right) for about three blocks. Walk past the Senate parking lot and Hart Senate Office Building (on your right), until you reach the intersection of 2nd Street NE and Constitution Avenue, NE. The Sewall-Belmont House will be on the right, at the corner of these cross-streets. Use entrance on Constitution Avenue. OR from the Capitol South (blue and orange lines): Walk up 1st Street NE in the direction of the Capitol for about four blocks, past the Capitol, the Library of Congress, and the Supreme Court, until you reach Constitution Avenue. Turn right and walk for a block, past the Dirksen and Hart Senate Office Buildings (on your left). The Sewall-Belmont House will be on the left, at the corner of Constitution Avenue and 2nd Street NE. Use entrance on Constitution Avenue. Metered street parking may be available but there is no dedicated parking at the house.







National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Philadelphia PA 19106

## EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



## Here's How You Can Be Involved

1. Attend a public workshop (see inside for more information)

❖ November 12, 2002  
Baltimore Maryland  
6:30 - 8:30 pm

❖ November 13, 2002  
Solomons Maryland  
6:30 - 8:30 pm

❖ November 14, 2002  
Washington DC  
2:00-4:00 pm

2. If you use the Web, you can find ongoing updates about the study at

**[www.nps.gov\phsoljstarspan](http://www.nps.gov\phsoljstarspan)**

3. Or you can contact the NPS Project Leader, Bill Sharp, through the mail at 200 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia PA, 19106 or by email at [william\\_sharp@nps.gov](mailto:william_sharp@nps.gov).